

REMARKS

This Supplemental Response is being filed as a result of a teleconference that took place today between Examiner Paul Roberts and Melissa Szanto, in which the Examiner indicated that each of pending claims 7-20, as amended herein, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that a notice of allowance be issued for all pending claims.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this Supplemental Response. If, however, any fee should be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required, to deposit Account No. 10-0750/GYN-045/MJS.

Should any minor points remain prior to issuance of a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa J. Szanto
Attorney for the Applicants
Reg. No. 40,834

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(732) 524-1365
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**In the Claims:**

8. (Twice Amended) A method for treating female urinary incontinence comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a first curved needle-like element defining in part a curved shaft;
- b) attaching a first end of a tape to the needle;
- c) passing the first needle and tape into the body;
- d) attaching a second end of the tape to the first needle or to a second needle-like element defining in part a curved shaft and passing the [needle and] tape and first or second needle into the body to form a sling around the urethra;
- e) leaving the tape implanted in the body; and
- f) post-surgically injecting a bulking agent into the tape between the tape and urethra, or post-surgically injecting a bulking agent between the tape and the urethra at a location substantially below the urethra and above the vagina.

9. (Twice Amended) A device for supporting an internal anatomical structure comprising a mesh tape and an expandable chamber in the tape having the ability to contain a variable amount of a fluid, wherein the expandable chamber is [affixed to the mesh tape and] positioned between the mesh tape and anatomical structure so that expansion of the expandable chamber directly provides increased support under the anatomical structure.

10. (Twice Amended) A surgical device for treating female urinary stress incontinence comprising:

- a) a substantially flat tape for implanting into the lower abdomen of a female to provide support to the urethra; and
- b) an expandable chamber affixed to the tape so that, when the tape is implanted, the expandable chamber is positioned substantially below the urethra and above the vagina, wherein the expandable chamber is expandable by

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injection of an injectable agent therein, and wherein such expansion directly provides increased support under the urethra.

14. (Twice Amended) A surgical instrument for treating female urinary stress incontinence comprising:

- a) a substantially flat, flexible tape for implanting into the lower abdomen of a female patient to provide support to the urethra, and having a length and a width; and
- b) a filamentary element extending along at least a portion of the length of the tape and having a first end affixed to the tape and a second end, the [suture] filamentary element passing through the tape at least once, whereby manipulation of the second end increases or decreases tension on the tape, thereby providing increased or decreased support to the urethra respectively.

15. (Twice Amended) A method for treating female urinary incontinence comprising the steps of:

- e) providing a substantially flat tape for implanting into the lower abdomen of a female patient to provide support to the urethra;
- f) providing an expandable chamber for accepting a fluid therein affixed to the tape;
- g) implanting the tape and expandable chamber within the female to form a sling around the urethra, so that the expandable chamber is positioned substantially below the urethra and above the vagina;
- h) post-operatively adjusting the sling by injecting fluid into or removing fluid from the expandable chamber to thereby directly increase or decrease respectively support under the urethra.